

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 9-40 are pending. Claims 1-8 have been canceled. Claims 19-24 and 40 have been withdrawn from examination as drawn to non-elected inventions.

II. The Restriction Requirement and Response Thereto

The Restriction Requirement dated February 1, 2006 (the "Requirement"), which supercedes the previous Restriction Requirement dated September 6, 2005, divides the claims into two groups: Group I, claims 10-18 and 25-39, drawn to methods of inhibiting disease progression with an inhibitor of soluble epoxide hydrolase ("sEH"), which sEH inhibitor is a urea, and Group II, claims 10-13 and 15-40, drawn to methods of inhibiting disease progression with an inhibitor of sEH, which inhibitor is a nucleic acid that inhibits expression of sEH. Claim 9 is stated by the Requirement to be a linking claim that will be examined regardless of which group is elected. If the linking claim is allowed, the restriction between the groups will be withdrawn.

Applicants elect the claims of Group I, which they understand to include claims 9-18 and 25-39, with traverse.

The Requirement also imposes a requirement that Applicants elect a species among the group consisting of obstructive pulmonary disease, interstitial lung disease, and asthma. Applicants elect as a species obstructive pulmonary disease. The claims reading upon the elected species are: 9, 10, 14-18, 25, 26, and 30-36.

Applicants understand that the Examiner will examine the non-elected species in this proceeding upon finding the elected species patentable over the art.

Appl. No. 10/815,425
Amdt. dated March 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 1, 2006

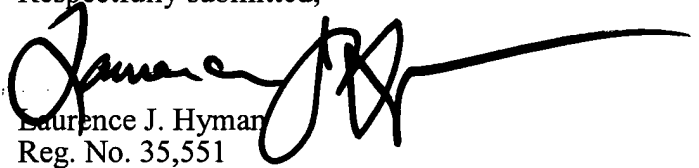
PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


Laurence J. Hyman
Reg. No. 35,551

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 415-576-0200
Fax: 415-576-0300
60730214 v1